

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 30-35 and 37-38 are now pending, with Claims 1 and 30 being independent claims. Claims 7 and 36 had been previously cancelled. Claims 10-29 remain withdrawn.

No amendments are submitted herewith.

Turning now to the Non-Final Office Action mailed on June 23, 2009:

Applicants respectfully traverse the sole rejection under Section 102(b) over Bahar et al.

Bahar et al. does not explicitly disclose a composition comprising (as in Claim 1) or consisting of (as in Claim 30) an acid component, *inter alia*, wherein the acid component is present in the composition in a range of from about 5 weight percent to about 90 weight percent based on the total weight of said composition.

And no reason has been provided as to why the disclosure of Bahar et al. would inherently, that is, necessarily, disclose such an acid component.

Bahar does not disclose, explicitly or inherently, an ion exchange resin (including one having perhaloalkylsulfonic acid functionality) in an amount in the range as recited in independent Claims 1 and 30 with respect to the acid component. The Non-Final Office Action simply states, with respect to a polymer and a perhaloalkylsulfonic acid ion exchange resin disclosed in Bahar et al., that “the skilled artisan would expect that a composition [of the ion exchange resin] filling 40-95%, preferably 70% of a volume [of the polymer] would read on at least 5 wt%, as the densities would not be expected to differ so greatly as to read on less than 5 wt%”. However, no support whatsoever is given for this statement.

Regardless, Applicants respectfully submit that Bahar et al. does not necessarily disclose an ion exchange resin (including one having perhaloalkylsulfonic acid functionality) in an amount in the range as recited in independent Claims 1 and 30 with respect to the acid component. Since Bahar et al. is completely silent with respect to the densities of the ion exchange resins and the polymers disclosed therein, the possibility exists that the densities of ion exchange resins and polymers, as recited in Bahar et al., could differ enough, such that it is possible that the ion exchange resin (including one having perhaloalkylsulfonic acid functionality) could be present in an amount outside of the ranges recited in independent Claims 1 and 30.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that Bahar et al. does not anticipate independent Claims 1 and 30.

The same reasoning applies with respect to Claims 2-6 and 8-9, which depend from Claim 1, and Claims 31-35 and 37-38, which depend from Claim 30.

Therefore, withdrawal of the sole Section 102(b) rejection over Bahar et al. is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the foregoing is fully responsive to each of the points raised in the Non-Final Office Action.

A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants' undersigned may be reached at the below-listed numbers, should there be any questions in connection with this case.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JKJ' followed by a stylized flourish.

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